

## NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

November 18, 2013

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, November 18, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Superintendent Robert Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi.

### **Annual Meeting**

William Padien was nominated for chairperson by Elizabeth Connor; the nomination was seconded by Ann Hall. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve William Padien as the chairperson.

Elizabeth Connor was nominated for secretary by Ann Hall; the nomination was seconded by Patricia Doyle. Being no further nominations, the vote was 5-0 to approve Elizabeth Connor as the secretary.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to appoint the chairperson to coordinate requests for assistance from the appointed legal counsel carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Padien, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 21, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the minutes of the executive session meeting held on October 21, 2013, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Reports**

There was an Aspen presentation for teachers at 3:00 this afternoon, followed by one for parents at 4:00. This is the student information system that comes with our partnership with North Kingstown. Mr. Hicks reported that we are expanding the use of Aspen into the middle grades this year. Progress reports and report cards can be sent home electronically. It was also mentioned that a parent can be alerted if his/her child's grade falls below a certain number or grade.

Ann Hall requested that the unit ventilators be cleaned before the heating system is put online in the fall. Her children got sick because the dust that had accumulated over the summer and early fall was blowing around the room.

Mrs. Hall also inquired about the new padding for the gym and hoped it would be installed soon as basketball is starting. Mr. Hicks stated that they are trying to figure out how to install it over outlets without ruining the padding or losing the outlets. She also mentioned the pile of dirt in the corner of the gym. Mr. Hicks stated he would speak to the custodians about it.

Everyone was reminded that the Block Island School Friends' Thanksgiving Pie Sale will be held next Monday-Wednesday at Harbor Church and BIG.

Mr. Hicks reported that the attendance rate for the first quarter was 94.6 percent. Overall attendance for 2011-12 was 93.1 percent and 92.7 percent in 2012-13. However, first quarter attendance has usually been higher than the end of the year.

Mr. Hicks stated that the fiscal report is very similar to last month's, but perhaps a couple of thousand dollars better. It is projecting slightly to the negative, but they are being pretty conservative. Mr. Hicks reported that one of the seven boilers in the new building is off-line and we are waiting for a repair estimate. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the standing of accounts as of October 31, 2013, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Old Business**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy FBF-1: High School Proficiency Based Graduation as amended and posted for the required 20 days carried with a vote of 5-0.

There was a lengthy discussion on blended learning, defined not as multi-grade classrooms, but a combination of direct instruction with online instruction. An article on blended learning that looks at experiences of schools trying out this combination was placed on the school's website for all to read. Mr. Hicks stated that things are rapidly evolving and schools trying blended learning have shifted and modified on the fly. If we take this path, there is a possibility that the model we start with will not be where we end up and what works as the Block Island School model may not fit any other school. Also discussed were flipped classrooms where instead of content being delivered in school with students having homework, the content would be delivered online with extra help given by teachers at school. Mr. Hicks stated that he has no intention of picking a model and putting it in place, but hopes that through research, school visits, and discussions of various applications a picture of the Block Island School future will develop. Next month he is planning to take a group of people to visit two schools in Providence that are putting blended learning into action.

### **New Business**

Policy ID: Extra-Curricular/Athletic Participation has been updated to include the new schedule change and the language was clarified regarding ineligible students attending games. A motion (Padien, Connor) to post for the required 20-day period carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Betsey DeMaggio as a bus monitor carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Mark Mollicone as the varsity boys' basketball head coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Paul Hemingway as the varsity boys' basketball assistant coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Robert Closter as the varsity girls' basketball head coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Tim Keane as the varsity girls' basketball assistant coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Paul Hemingway as the junior high boys' basketball head coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Jaixen Hall as the junior high boys' basketball assistant coach carried with a vote of 4-0-1 with Ann Hall recusing herself.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to consent to the appointment of Nathaniel Shaw as the junior high girls' basketball head coach carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request for the waiver of the facility use fees was received from Gary Pollard, who would like to use the school library to show first run movies during the winter. Mr. Pollard explained that this would only be financially feasible for him if he didn't have to pay the use fees. If allowed to use the library and the fees are waived Mr. Pollard would have a screen and a speaker system installed, which he would donate to the school. Mr. Hicks was concerned about the fee waiver and how a standard could be set without being arbitrary. School Committee members voiced concerns regarding whether the building would be ready for school Monday morning if movies were shown Sunday evening, the liability of the digital projector being stored at the school during the week, security at the front door and keeping patrons out of the rest of the building, the need to have a custodian in the building, and having food and beverage in the carpeted library. It was stated that Mr. Pollard had already spoken with the Recreation Department and the Block Island School Friends about a possible partnership to avoid the fees. He also spoke with the Town Council, Rescue Squad, the Island Free Library, and various churches about the use of other spaces around town, but he has met with resistance for each venue. A motion (Connor, Padien) to be supportive of the proposal to show movies during the winter on Block Island, but to not waive the facility use fees carried with a vote of 5-0.

A request for tuition reimbursement was received from Robert Closter, Jr., who intends to seek his master's degree through Emporia State University. Mr. Closter did not have the specific courses he intends to take during spring semester because he wasn't sure which ones would be available. A motion (Connor, Doyle) to approve Rob Closter's request for tuition reimbursement pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers' Contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks sought authorization to proceed with the preparation of a state grant for a 50kW PV energy installation that would include an educational component. It would require a 25 percent school match, which is estimated at \$58,000. If the grant were awarded it would require a realignment of our reserve funds. Chris Warfel has been very helpful in providing critical technical support with the application. This grant is funded with the state's share of offshore wind farm leases, is open to schools, and runs until March with only \$800,000 available statewide. Mr. Hicks had not calculated the payback, but will get more information before the next meeting.

New Shoreham's Comprehensive Plan is being updated by the Planning Board and has requested our input on various school sections. This includes reviewing and updating background information; reviewing and commenting on goals and objectives; and reviewing implementing actions including current status, and identifying new issues and actions to be considered. A more complete description of school facilities, enrollment trends, education costs, capital, and program needs is requested before December 1. Mr. Hicks submitted the updates he will be sending to the town. It was suggested that he include the percentage of the town's budget that is spent on the school.

As part of Principal Monje's administrative internship last spring she worked with the school staff and the New Shoreham Police Department to complete a full review of our security procedures. As required by state law, our plan has been publicly posted on our website for 30 days and reviewed by the School Committee. Certain sections (personal contact information, procedures during lockdowns, and evacuation locations) were removed from the public posting for reasons of security and confidentiality. To complete the plan review the police came to the school several times. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the security plan as written and posted for the required 30 days carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Calendar of Events**

The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2013.

### **Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from the Harbor Baptist Church thanking us for the assistance of several high school students during the recent Roll Call dinner.

### **Executive Session**

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 9:09 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Open Session**

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 9:25 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to seal the executive session minutes carried with a vote of 5-0.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 9:25 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: December 16, 2013